

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church

*as the disciples were watching, Jesus was lifted up,
and a cloud took him out of their sight.*



*This Jesus, who has been taken up from you
into heaven, will come in the same way as you
saw him go into heaven. Acts 1 v 9 & 11(pt.)*

MAY 2025

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FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

I remember at the end of January it had felt like the year was going so slowly and now in a blink of an eye we're at the end of April. Where has the time gone?

It's fair to say that, so far, 2025 has been a year of peaks and troughs. As a church family we have celebrated and mourned. We've said hello to new people and also said goodbye to some dear friends and family. I guess each year is like that but I'm more acutely aware of it this year for some reason.

Last week we celebrated the culmination of the Christian year with Easter Sunday. Thank goodness for the hope that we have in Jesus. Easter reminds us that there is always hope; that this is not the end. It's so easy to look at the world and feel hopeless and lost but we have a hope that goes beyond our current circumstances. One day every tear will be wiped away and there will be no pain or sadness. Now I know that this is a future promise but as Christians we get to partner with God in the present and bring more of the promise of Heaven to earth right now. I pray that you also have that hope and that by the power of the Spirit together we can share that hope with those that we meet. We are Easter people all year round, not just when the Easter bunny shows up.

May you continue to know that God is with you and that nothing can separate you from His love.

Steven



FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Sadly, Derek W passed away at the end of March. He will be missed by many of us, and especially Junior Church. He bought the books for the children each year and regularly gave chocolates, and treats, to the children and staff. Please remember Derek's son, Neil, and his family in your prayers.

Pat P sadly passed away at the beginning of April. Pat was a lovely member of our congregation. She was a Communion Steward for many years and was always supportive of events and was very encouraging to everyone within the Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with Derek and the family.

Congratulations to Hylda H who has a significant birthday this month! Congratulations to those of you who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and any other events, this month.

The Squirrels had a fun visit from the farmer and Easter Bunny before Easter. They danced, played games and had an egg hunt. The Scouts have been working extremely hard creating fabulous Mother's Day gifts. Some of the Beavers and Cubs had a fantastic time at Preston City Trampoline Club and thoroughly enjoyed learning how to trampoline safely.

We were blessed with good weather for the first week of the school Easter holidays and it was lovely to see so many of our Junior Church members in Church on Easter Sunday.

Please keep Alan and Margaret, and their daughter Joanne in your thoughts and prayers, as Joanne is still in the Major Trauma ward. Pam E is recovering at following a recent fall and sends her thanks for the we sent her from Church.



If anyone, who is unable to attend Church for any reason, would like to receive Communion at home, please speak to your Elder.

To our members and friends who are unwell or cannot join us in Church, and all those who are sad, we send our love and best wishes and want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,
Gillian A

PURC SERVICES FOR MAY - JUN 2025

04 May Holy Communion	10:30	Jim Wilson
11 May Parade Service	10:30	5 th Penwortham Scouts
18 May Family Worship	10:30	Margery Pitcher
25 May Family Worship	10:30	Rev'd Frank Kendall
01 Jun Holy Communion	10:30	Rev'd Anton Muller
08 Jun Family Worship	10:30	Rev'd Jennifer Liddell
15 Jun Penwortham Gala Ecumenical Service (detail TBA)		
22 Jun Family Worship	10:30	Steven Mitchell
29 Jun Family Worship	10:30	Junior Church - Anniversary

(Non)

Note: changes to Service and Rota notices sometimes have to be made at short notice after publication and are updated in Sunday notices (Ed.)

Penwortham

United Reformed Church



Serving, celebrating, and living the way of Christ together



PURC FLOWERS/DOOR/REFRESHMENTS ROTA FOR MAY-JUN 2025

FLOWERS



DOOR



REFRESHMENTS



04 May Jo H	Rita	Jenny & Beverley
11 May Alan & Beverley S	Celia	
18 May Martin & Kirsty M	Debra	Alison & Kirsty
25 May Christine & Ian W	Graham	
01 Jun Vacant	TBA	Anne & Gloria
08 Jun Margaret & Alan E	Viv	
15 Jun Penwortham Gala	PURC to be Venue if raining.	
29 Jun Jean F	Gloria	?
(Jenny)	(Elders)	(Elders)

JOINT FAMILY SOCIAL EVENT

for

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

and 5th PENWORTHAM URC SCOUT GROUP

on

Saturday 17th May 2025

Doors open 6:00pm for 6.30pm

Entry Tickets to be purchased in advance at a cost of £5.00 Adults/£3.00 Children - includes Refreshments with a Pie & Peas/ Red Cabbage/Gravy Supper.

Please speak to Anne Hall for your tickets

Your Bingo Books can be purchased at the event with one game free for each entry ticket purchased

Profits to support the joint Penwortham URC / 5th Penwortham URC Scout Group purchase of planting for entry to



"Penwortham in Bloom"



Please come along to a very social evening.

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Scouts

NOTICES

CHURCH FLOWERS ROTA

We currently have 3 vacant dates for our Flower Rota, the contribution to which makes a colourful addition to the decoration of our Worship Area for services and then are distributed to convey our love and friendship to members of the fellowship in times of celebration or commiseration.



Should anyone feel able to contribute to the flowers, please speak to Jenny who will confirm the arrangements. The dates currently are : 01 June; 14 and 21 September.

INTERNATIONAL AID DELIVERY - 31ST MARCH 2025

Thank you once again for all your generous donations for International Aid.



Ready for delivery to the warehouse. Amazing.

Many, many, gorgeous, knitted blankets, jumpers, hats, socks, scarves, a dress for teddy, and some wonderful knitted dolls, known as 'Izzy dolls'. Izzy dolls are knitted with love and given to children for comfort. Numerous stationery items, children's colouring books, and small toys.

Lots and lots of toiletries, some of which have been put into handy packs for individuals.



Delivery to the warehouse at Tarleton.

We were really fortunate when we took the donations to the warehouse as they were loading up a container ready for setting off. It was wonderful to see how they fitted the donations into every available space, and made sure everything was safe and secure. A real team effort by everyone involved. (Joyce & Rita)

COMMUNITY CHOIR

**The next Community Choir meeting will be on:
28th May - 7.00 to 8.15PM**



(Katie)

ECO CHURCH NOTICE - NO MOW MAY

Put your mower away and take part in 'No Mow May' Plantlife, the wild plant conservation charity, started the No Mow May campaign in 2019 to encourage us to put our mowers away during May and let wildflowers grow. In the UK we have lost 97 per cent of British wildflower meadows since the 1930s, which has removed a vital source of food for pollinators such as bees and butterflies. No Mow May participants have reported almost 100 species of pollinators on their lawns including 25 types of moth and butterfly, and 24 types of bee.



Gillian A

PENWORTHAM IN BLOOM



The church and 5th Penwortham Scouts are entering Penwortham in Bloom this year which has the theme of "Myths and Legends".

A group has been formed of Anne H, Hilary Sand Pam S, together with Sarah G to co-ordinate this, and plans are underway. Appeals for various items are to be made. Our entry will be judged by the Town Council in June. *Robert*

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2025

This year **Christian Aid Week** will be held from **11th May to 17th May**. It has a focus on the dire situation for farmers of Guatemala, Uncertainty looms over indigenous farming communities in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala, Central America. In this forested area of mountains and rivers, the livelihoods, traditions and very survival of farmers and their families are threatened by deadly droughts, savage storms and monster monoculture plantations.



Please give generously to this worthy cause operating through partners in some of the most needy parts of the world. Churches Together in Penwortham physical collections will be on 9th & 10th May at Tesco and 30th & 31st May at Booths. *Ed.*

A PRAYER

Living God, daily you create the world, remake it, and fill it with possibilities. When it comes to faith, help us to appreciate what we understand, to enquire about what we don't understand, and to enjoy the journey in between...

From Worship Words - by John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON at

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Liverpool Road, Penwortham, PR1 0QB

Monday 2nd June 2025 at 2.00pm

Jimmy O'Donnell

will be bringing us an interactive talk entitled

The Power of Reminiscence

as past memories bring joy to the present
using a variety of things to trigger the senses.



*The event will be followed by
Tea, Coffee and Biscuits*

The cost will be £4.00

Do come along and bring a friend



Moving Stories

Commitment
for Life

URC

Committed to supporting our global partners **ZIMBABWE**

Two opportunities to get involved



Christian Aid Week 11 to 17 May, 2025

This year the focus is on
Guatemala. Please go to
www.bit.ly/4co1Apj



The Great Big Green Week – 'Together for good' 7 and 15 June, 2025

Do you have a passion to
tackle climate change and
protect nature?

Commitment for Life is a
member of The Climate
Coalition that brings people
together to demand action on
the climate. The Great Big
Green Week will take place
between 7 and 15 June.

Get your resource pack here
www.bit.ly/42qpg8R

When Commitment
for Life went to
Zimbabwe recently,
we met up with Sostina
Takure, who coordinates
the Zimbabwe ACT Alliance
Forum.

Sostina told us about just how
much she loves working with
the ACT Alliance. ACT Alliance
is faith based and, as a pastor's
wife, Sostina feels right at home.
She coordinates the efforts to
assist people who are most at
risk in Zimbabwe.

When Hurricane Idai struck
Zimbabwe several years ago,
Christian Aid, in collaboration
with ACT Alliance, was one of
the first to have "boots on the
ground". They helped people to
safety, rescued personal property
and livestock, and helped people
re-build over 500 houses.

Sostina told us that she is
passionate about empowering
women, whether this is in
relation to economics or to
family life. She helps women
set up markets that empower
them to get good prices for their



Photo credit: Sostina Takure: ACT Alliance, Zimbabwe,
by Kevin Stowman

produce. Sometimes, women need
assistance to get out of abusive
situations. Sostina is there to help,
with the assistance of the church.
You can watch our interview with
Sostina in this video. As a bonus,
you get to see Wilbert throw a
drone into the African sky!

www.bit.ly/C4LSostina

With your continued support for
Commitment for Life, Incredible
people like Sostina can function
and do what they do best – care
for people. Please continue in your
prayers for Zimbabwe, especially
given how attention is being
diverted by local and global crises.

WORLD PRAYER NEWS

Sometimes it is good to focus on lesser known Christian endeavours that we can bring before God. This page mentions just a few of the world prayer articles on the website of [Global Connections](https://globalconnections.org.uk/)

Europe: France - France Mission

To try and help address the shortage of gospel workers in France, the Perspectives network of churches has launched a 4-year training programme to help equip volunteers for service within their local churches. The training is being made freely available to all churches within the evangelical FEF Network (nearly 500 in total). Please pray for the ongoing impact of this initiative and, in addition, please ask the Lord to raise up more full-time or bi-vocational workers for the growing evangelical population in France.

North America: Haiti - World Share

Ask God to comfort the PiFò Haiti team as they face difficult news from Haiti, knowing they are strengthened by prayer. Give thanks for the long-awaited concrete delivery, enabling them to continue work on the supply depot and support their community. Celebrate that Programme Manager Emerson and his team were recognised for their dedication to growing and providing food for La Gonâve. As PiFò Haiti considers purchasing adjacent land to expand their garden and combat food insecurity, pray for wisdom and discernment in their decision-making.

South East Asia: The Philippines - Mission Assist

We pray for our newly-launched Lent Appeal, supporting Dalit families in Patripul. Give thanks for our partners, the GCare Foundation, and their unwavering commitment to Dalit children. Please pray for: Opportunities and fair access to education for children in Patripul, safety for Dalit girls often disregarded even by their families, protection for the staff and GCare Centres against higher caste groups opposing their work, a positive response to our Lent Appeal.

South Central Asia: India - The Dohnavur Fellowship Corporation

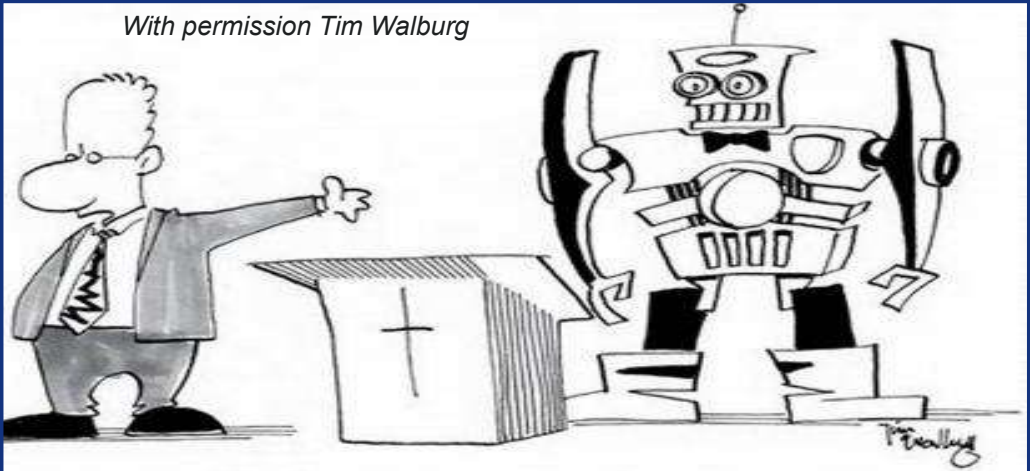
Please pray for the Dohnavur Fellowship, they have recently welcomed some new girls to the home and are looking at different ways to expand their outreach to be able to help more children and families. We thank God for the provision of a new ambulance, electric car to help transport the elderly Accals around the campus, an electric buggy to move food and supplies, and a new tractor for the farm.

above with the permission of Global Connections

<https://globalconnections.org.uk/>

CARTOON FOR COLOURING

With permission Tim Walburg



"And now our guest pastor will preach on transformation."

CARTOON

With permission Tim Walburg



"THAT WAS A GOOD SERMON ON POVERTY. I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYONE WE CAN HELP?"

"CONTACT" PUBLICATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the June issue.

It is also published on our website, minus any personal/pastoral information advised to the Editor. See: <https://penworthamurc.org.uk/> If you have anything you would like to contribute to "Contact", it will be most welcome. Either send it by e-mail to purcmagweb@talktalk.net ; speak to Alan E or deliver to 27 Hazel Close

Thank you for your contributions

Next submission date will be Sunday 25 May 2025.

Next issue date will be Sunday 01 June 2025